



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas, Director

DATE: December 18, 2019

BOOKSHARE WEBINAR

The NC Department of Public Instruction Exceptional Children Division (NCDPI-ECD) provides Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with resources under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to ensure the provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) and to meet the requirements of “providing instructional materials to blind persons or other persons with print disabilities, in a timely manner” (NC 1501-14.3a).

Bookshare is an online library of over 765,000 titles and FREE access to materials for students with print disabilities as a means for accessible educational materials (AEM). A print disability prevents a person from accessing traditional print materials and may require the utilization of alternative modes of access based on the student’s unique needs. Students with print disabilities may include those with a Specific Learning Disability (SLD), Orthopedic Impairment (OI), or Visual Impairment including Blindness (VI) or a student with a documented 504 plan.

The Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 team is responsible for determining if a student requires audiobooks to have access to, participate in, and progress in the general education curriculum. Due to the individualized unique needs, some students may require audio, highlighted text, braille or other accommodations/modifications to access printed materials effectively, which Bookshare offers. Bookshare is supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs in regards to IDEA 2004.

A webinar on Bookshare will be presented on January 22, 2020 from 3:00-4:00 pm by the NCDPI-ECD Assistive Technology Team. This webinar is intended for all educators that include regular educators, special educators, program coordinators and teacher assistants.

Participants of the webinar will:

- Learn more about Accessible Educational Materials
- Learn more about accessibility for students with print disabilities
- Become familiar with Bookshare and how to use it effectively
- Gain more tools for data collection and decision making
- Review the Bookshare site live to gain an understanding of the process

Registration for this webinar is required. Please use this link for registration:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/1834740063538047756>

Questions regarding this webinar may be directed to Crystal Patrick, crystal.patrick@dpi.nc.gov.

SHT/SV/DM/cp

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

Sherry H. Thomas, Director | sherry.thomas@dpi.nc.gov

6356 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6356 | (919) 807-3969 | Fax (919) 807-3896

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